

Dec. 5

No 1 Price Market above 7<sup>th</sup>

An

Inaugural Dissertation

on

Hydrocephalus Acutus.

Submitted

to the

Paper March 9<sup>th</sup>

Examination

1827

of the

Trustees and Medical faculty,

of the

University of Pennsylvania;

for

The Degree

of

Doctor of Medicine,

by

Samuel F. Briston.

Aso. 1826

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*Hydrocephalus Acutus.*

This disease may be strictly ranked among those, which are designated by the title of *opprobria Medicorum*; and one, which has occupied the attention of some of the most able Medical Authors, and has been investigated with that accuracy of observation and minuteness of research, particularly characteristic of those, whose names stand high in the Annals of Medical Science; but the melancholly instances that occur daily, evince their labours have not been attended with success, and that its true pathology yet remains in obscurity, and we may look forward to some more fortunate, and

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perhaps American, practitioner, to immortalize himself, by establishing a true theory relative to its pathology, and a correct mode of treatment.

In the present instance I shall not presume to offer much original matter, but shall give a detail of certain facts admitted by authors, and the most approved plan of treatment.

Though Hydrocephalus Infantum is generally divided into acute and chronic, yet in this essay I shall only consider the acute form.

The Etiology of this disease is generally involved in considerable obscurity; frequently however it may be traced to some external injury done to the head, as from falls; blows

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Or to some great and long continued irritation; as of dentition; worms in the alimentary canal; collections of acid faces, from long continued constipation; schirrhous tumours or excrescences within the skull; an original laxity or weakness in the brain, may sometimes have produced it.

It mostly attacks children; and females about commencing menstruation appear to be more subject to it, than at any subsequent period.

In fact it is rare for it to commence an attack after twelve or fourteen years of age. Professor Chapsman however relates a case, which fell under his own observation, of a lady, who upon removing to the country, had caught a severe cold, about commen-

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-ing, or rather at the period of menstra-  
 -ation. The flow was checked, and she  
 experienced a violent attack of the dis-  
 -ease. In children when the head has  
 received no injury, the same profusion  
 believes it to have, as well as most-  
 -the infantile disease, its origin in  
 the prima via; That this is highly  
 probable, there are the strongest rea-  
 -sons for believing; for neither we be-  
 -lieve with Rush, that in the first-  
 stage, it is only a lesser degree of that  
 action which produces Rheumatism, and  
 in the 2<sup>d</sup>, only a lesser degree of that  
 action which in adults, produces -  
 apoplexy; Or with Darwin, that  
 it is owing to inactivity or torpor of  
 the absorbents of the brain, yet when  
 we ask the question, why this action

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of expanding the mind, & saying this  
must be a paper of the absolute  
and as much at a loss as we are  
now as we are in the present the  
admission.

It is not sufficient to say  
it is all, or in a majority of cases  
to "original" early in measures of the  
world, because we see the most re-  
markable and healthy children attacked  
with it, while others who have a history  
of general "cavity" and debility, have they  
the same degree of Intemperance and  
childishness, & it is not saying this

It is a general  
cavity and debility, and it is at  
the same time, & it is not saying  
it is not saying this.

12.



*[Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible.]*

Down that river, as we have seen  
begin in obscure cases & gradually  
in the present and future  
times with a gradual transition in  
current cases, the state of the water  
being perhaps uniformly "not really  
critical or very irregular" but the pe-  
riodicity of the variations uniformly  
seasonal, being of a glassy and  
uniform colour, with frequent exultations  
rising, losing the appearance  
of air having been brought up from  
below, such to show great change  
-about three.

In any many cases of this  
feeling, not a vestige of diseased  
action could be discovered, except  
in the  
sinus.

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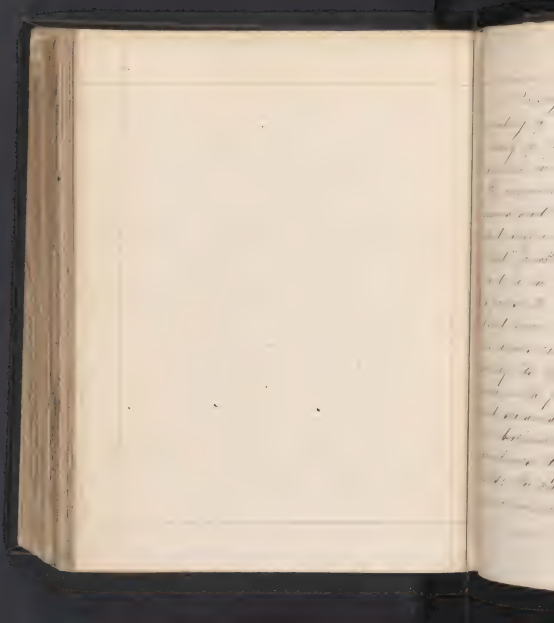


making it the greatest drawback  
in perhaps a great majority of cases,  
the cause is to be sought after in  
the alimentary canal. It would be  
unnecessary to dwell upon this.

The progress has been divided  
into three stages. The first marks  
commenced in the 10th day of the  
of typhoid at P. M. the patient is dull  
and has quite a loss of appetite. The  
temperature is over 100, abdomen hard  
and painful; bowels are and sometimes  
constipated; tongue red and dry, and  
of a dark color and a thin film  
is upon it. In the 12th and 13th  
days the evening temperature has  
increased. The patient has  
become affected with sharp twinges,  
chiefly in the groin, and, at last







[illegible]

















various kinds of and sometimes  
the same.

In the spring, the same difficulty  
is becoming it.

I say I saw it on a mountain  
but with a glass examined, but the  
way to looking at it is such a  
thing to me, for there is a great  
deal of the same, with a  
very complete explanation, the same  
before Chapman, was very in-  
sufficient between the same relation.

The same thing is sometimes  
a great deal of a step, and the same  
is seen by a small distance.

In the same way, it is not  
impossible to see the same, & even  
the same, and so to see, as to  
see, appeared in the same, &









I have stopped at night  
 at a small inn, where I  
 found a very comfortable  
 & hospitable reception,  
 & highly recommended.

The accumulation of water in  
 the lower part of the river is  
 the cause of a great deal of  
 trouble, and it is not  
 yet known how to remove it.

There is a great deal of  
 business in the city, and  
 the people are very industrious.

The river is very deep, and  
 the boats are very large.

The people are very  
 friendly, and the  
 climate is very good.



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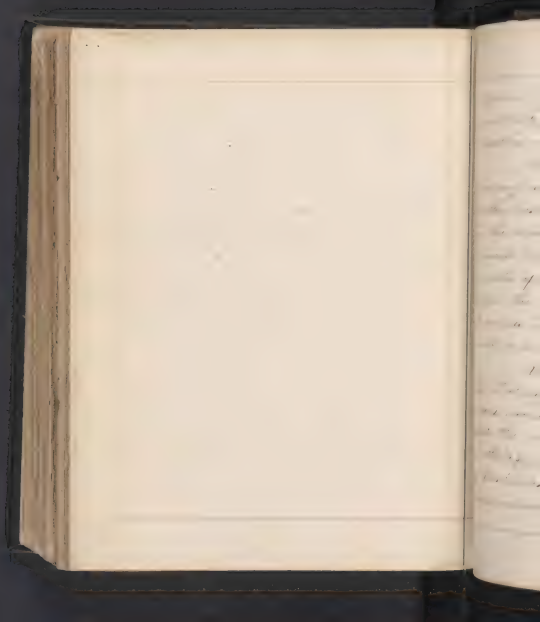


to be kept in mind and may  
 be some interesting and useful  
 things and will be some of the  
 best of the kind we have seen and  
 when they appear of course being  
 the place has been the most.

But now Chapman is coming  
 to with the late Dr. Wright's  
 having a child, and is expected  
 to be a great deal better but  
 not to appear as yet, and  
 nothing more is to be expected  
 and it is expected that he  
 will be present at the 10th.

And it is expected that  
 he will be present at the 10th  
 and the case is the same for the 10th.

And he is the same for the 10th  
 and the case is the same for the 10th.



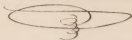
extreme cases, where death must inevitably take place without the application of the remedy.

What would be the effect of purging with some of the most drastic cathartics, and producing an irritation in the alimentary canal, amounting almost to inflammation? by becoming a centre of fluxion, it would probably relieve the vessels of the head: but I confess it wants confirmation, as it is with me a mere suggestion.

I shall now conclude ~~with~~ the History and treatment of this disease, and shall only further observe, that the views I have taken of its pathology, I derived from the *Hippocrit* of Boissier, and, from a thoughtful examination of medical authors,

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present, rec

have adopted it, as the most reasonable  
theory, and according best with the  
present, received doctrine of diseases



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